

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claim 31 has been re-written into a new form, as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action of May 14, 2004. Applicants submit that claim 31 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 32-27 were deemed allowable by the Examiner in the same office action.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and a notice of allowance are therefore requested. Applicants do not believe an extension of time is required. However, in the event that an extension of time has been overlooked, Applicants submit this conditional petition for an extension of time, and request that deposit account number 19-4972 be charged for any fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this application. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if any matters remain outstanding so that they may be resolved expeditiously.

Dated: August 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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